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THE
TRAGEDY
OF THE
KINGS ARMIES FIDELITY

Since their entring into BRISTOL,
TOGETHER.

With the too late repentance of the Inhabitants.

Wherein is set forth

**Their extreme Plunderings, Rapes, Murthers
and other Villanies committed by them upon the Per-
sons and Estates of his Majesties most faithfullest Subjects,
abundantly sufficient to convince the Consciencés of all men
that speake so much in the vindication of them,**

**Their carriage being directly contrary to the Articles of
agreement for delivering up the said City; The which
Articles are here specified.**

EZEK. 17. 18, 19.

*Seeing hee despised the oath, by breaking the Covenant, (When loe, he hath given
his hand) and hath done all these things, he shall not escape.
Therefore thus saith the Lord God, As I live, surely mine oath that he hath despised,
and my Covenant that he hath broken, even it will I recompence upon his own head.*

OBADIAH, VER. 13, 14.

*Thou shouldest not have entred into the gate of my people in the day of their calamity:
yea, thou shouldest not have looked on their affliction in the day of their calamity,
nor have laid hands on their substance in the day of their calamity.
Neither shouldest thou have stood in the crosse way, to cut off those of his that did
escape, neither shouldest thou have delivered up those of his that did remaine in the
day of distresse.*

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21 May 1907
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English History.

THE
ARTICLES AGREED

At the City of *Bristol*,

Between Collonel *Nathaniel Fiennes*, Governour of the sa
on the one party, and Collonell *Charles Gerard*, and Captain *Will
Teringham*, for, and on the behalf of *P. Rupert*, on the other party, *July 26. 16.*

Has the Governour *Nathaniel Fiennes*, together with all the Officers
of Horse and Foote, now within and about the City of *Bristol*, *Castle
Fors*, may march out to morrow morning by 9. of the clock, with their
Arms, Horses, bagge and baggage, provided it be their own goods, and
that the common Foot Souldiers march out without Armes, and the Troopers
with their Horses and Swords, leaving their other Arms behind them, with a safe Convooy
to *Warminster*, and after not to be molested in ther March by any of the Kings Forces, for
the space of three dayes.

2. That there may be Carriages allowed and provided, to carry away their bagge and
baggage, and sicke and hurt Souldiers.

3. That the Kings Forces march not into the Towne, till the Parliament Forces are mar-
shed out, which is at 9. of the clock.

4. That all Prisoners in the City be delivered up, and that Captain *Byres*, and Captain
Cookin, who were taken at the *Devises*, be released.

5. That *Sir John Homer*, *Sir John Seymoure*, *M. Edward Steevens*, and all other
Knights, Gentlemen, Citizens and other persons, that are now in the City, may if they
please, with their Goods, Wives and Families, Horses, Bagge and Baggage, have free
liberty to returne to their own homes, or elsewhere, and there to rest in safety, or ride and
travell with the Governour and Forces; and such of them and their Families as shall be left
behind, by reason of sicknesse or other cause, may have liberty, so soon as they can convenient-
ly, to depart this Towne with safety, provided that all the Gentlemen and other persons, shall
have three dayes liberty to reside here, or depart with their goods, which they please.

6. That all the Inhabitants of this City, shall be secured in their Persons, Families and
Estates, free from plundering, and all other violence or wrong whatsoever.

7. That the Charters and Liberties of this City may be preserved, and that the ancient
Governments thereof, and present Governours and Officers may remaine and continue in their
former condition, according to his Majesties Chartures and pleasure.

8. That for avoyding inconveniencies and distractions, the quartering of Souldiers be
referred or left to the Mayor and Governour of the same City for the time being.

9. That all such as have carried any goods into the Castle, may have free liberty to carry
the same forth.

10. That the Forces that are to march out, are to leave behind them all Cannon and
Ammunition, with their Colours, and such Arms as is before expressed.

THE TRAGEDY OF THE KINGS ARMIES

Fidelity, since their entering into BRISTOL.

SO many and sundry infallible Relations, and sad, yet certain Stories have come from divers parts of the Kingdome, expressing the inhumane, perfidious and barbarous carriage of the Cavaliers in their extreame plunderings, rapes, murders, and other villanies committed by them upon the persons and estates of His Majesties most faithfull Subjects, as that are abundantly sufficient to convince the consciences, and stop the mouths of all alignants whatsoever, that speake so much in the vindication of them; were it not that the devill hath blinded their minds and poysoned their hearts with a spirit of Magnignity and contradiction, that they will believe nothing till they feele it as others do. So that although it seemes needlesse in regard of such men, to set out any more Declarations of this nature, it being too manifest to all the world, what the practises of these bloody Cavaleeres are; yet because divers ill affected persons in *London* to deceive others, doe still give out that the Citizens of *Bristol* are in as happy a condition as their hearts can wish, since it was surrendred to the Kings Army; and that there were but 2, or 3 shops plundered. We have thought good (although it seemes now almost too late, and so unseasonable) to let all people see by this narration in what happinesse that City is since the Cavaliers came into it, and to this present, that they may judge of it; hoping it will animate and encourage all good people, specially of this famous City, rather to adventure their lives and all that they have to save it from such vermine then to injoy farre greater happinesse then *Bristol* now doth, or ever is like to do, so long as it is in their hands.

To enter therefore upon the Declaration it selfe, let the Reader compare the Articles of agreement, with that which followeth, and see what faith can be expected to be kept by these men.

Whereas the Collonels, Officers and Souldiers were ready to march out of the City, according to the first and 5^t Article, with the Knights, Gentlemen and many hundred Citizens, and other persons of the Country, and thought to march out of Towne at that gate which leads towards *Warmister* (to which place we were by agreement to be conducted) the bridges being taken up that were over the trenches; we were not only stopt in, but hurried too and fro from one gate to another, not knowing which way they would bring us out. In the meane time the Cavaliers came rushing into the City, contrary to the 3^d Article, who were not to come in untill we were march'd forth. At last we were brought without Temple-gate, and there stopt till the bridge was laid. In the meane while the Cavaliers fell upon us in a most furious and barbarous manner, plundering and rifling all sorts of persons, mentioned in the said Articles, sparing neither Age nor Sex, but tooke away our horses, cloake-bagges, monies, and stript divers of their clothes; throwing men, women and children off their horses that rode double, searching the women in an uncivill manner for money, presenting their Swords and Pistols at such as did in any sort deny them, or made the least resistance; and when we alleadged the termes of agreement, they would not acknowledge any at all. So that when one of the company produced a copy of the Ar-

This character is published by of those that do both see and feel much of this that is here recorded.

taken the *Master P. A. hand* and shewed them, they snatch it from him and plundred him presently of his horse, cloaths and mony. After all this was acted, *P. Ruperts* came with divers Lords and Commanders, as seeming to see faire play. But when complaint was made to him of all these breaches of the agreement, all he answered for our reliefe was that he said, it was for want of a convoy, when as yet we were not all cleare of the Towne, nor without the works, and besides that there was amongst us divers of their chiefe Officers, together with Knights and Gentlemen, all to no purpose for our reliefe: for one that was plundred, complained to Sir *James Thinn* one of their Commanders, that he was plundred, and shewed him the man that did it, but this Souldier did maintaine it to his face, that he did command him to plunder. Indeed *P. Rupert* made a flourish of rescuing us, and strucke 2, or 3 with his Sword; but the heart of the man by this. One complained to him at that present, that he was dred of 500. l. worth of goods at least, by the common souldiary, earnestly that if that might not be restored, yet he would be pleased to let him enjoy what remaining, which was in plate most of it. *P. Rupert* swore, if he would goe back to the Towne, he should not loose a penny, only he was to give 50. l. to a Gentleman to be his convoy, and to see what was of it. Whereupon the Prince sends two Colonels, takes away all the plate, being about 2300. ounces, and would not give him one 5. l. back, though he alleaged he was not able to subsist, but reviled at him and called him Traitor and Rebelle, and said it was a favour that he escaped with his life, and a few dayes after, pluck'd down one of his houses. And this was all the satisfaction that he or we had for the spoils and mischiefs they did us. When they had thus pillaged and rifled us, we were brought without the works, about 800. horse and foot (many hundreds were shut in and plundred, and some carried to prison, where they yet remain.) Then we were committed to a convoy of about 5. Troops of horse, and so brought through their Army, who fell a railing and reviling at us, and blaspheming God in a most fearfull manner, raging exceedingly and saying, *It grieved them that they could not butcher us, and bereave us of our lives, upbraiding of us, and asking, Where is now your God? Where are your sappings, and prayers and profession? Where is your King Jesus: and said, K. Charles shall be King for all King Jesus, and that God was now turned Cavalier, horresco referens.* This convoy brought us 5. miles out of *Bristol* on the way towards *Bath*: But the Wolfe was set to keepe the Lambs, for they plundered us by the way as we went of those things that the others had left us, and in our march would not suffer many to drinke a litle water, being extreame thirsty by going so fast in the heate; if any slipped aside to get a litle water or drinke, the Cavilleers would presently take their opportunity to plunder and strip them. And when they had brought us 5. miles, they returned back againe, and made us stay a great while in the way, which did much amaze us what their intention was, which caused divers to get away as they could, whereby many were taken prisoners in *Dorsetshire*, and so remaine to this present. This Convoy at last came againe, and brought us within 3. miles of *Warminster* and then made us all to stop, and surrounded us with their Horse, with their swords drawne, and commanded us to throw away our staves, and to deliver up our knives, and constrained Colonell *Finnes* to give them 150. l. of the money he had to pay the souldiers, else they would have stript us of our cloathes and whatever the former had left us: This being done, they here left us, and said that they would shortly come to *London* where they knew they should find us, and then they would conduct us to Hell. It seemes these wretches are well acquainted with the way thither, that they will take upon them to conduct others, yea and thither

hemselfes must goe, if God heare their frequent prayers : *God damn them.*

As they violated the third Article in entring the City before their time, so when they came in, they ran into mens houses like a company of savage wolves, and fell a plundering of all sorts without distinction, as well Malignants as others : But at last through the instigation of base beggerly people, and some others desperately ill affected persons, they were directed in speciall, to fall upon such in every streete as were well affected to the Parliament, specially the high-streete & the Bridge, the only and chiefe places of tradesmen, for Mercers, Silkemen and Linnen-Drapers, in which places they plundered whole shops of wares, whereby many that lived well and had good estates are now undone, entring houses with their swords drawne, and setting them to mens breasts, * taking women by the throats, thereby forcing them to open their closets, and to bring forth their money and plate, after which they rob them of the best of their goods, and then sold them before their faces in great quantities to *Welch* people and others for trifles. And when they found divers commodities to the country people, the souldiers would meeete with them going home, and plunder them of the same commodities againe. Some men had given money for protections to some of the Officers, yet were plundered notwithstanding. Others paid * fines for their goods taken away, and having regained them they were plundered of the same goods : Yea the Cavileeres take up * commodities of some men who had protections, promising payment when his Majesty payeth them, and when they shew them their protection, they answered that this was no plundering.

Together with their plunderings, they committed many other barbarous actions ; namely the murthering of a woman great with child, who it seemes resisted them when they came into the house to plunder, whom they slew with a pole-axe or sword, yet the woman was no enemy unto them, but one that had long'd for their coming in. Also they slew an ancient man upon *Durdum-donne*, the Sabbath-day before the fight began, although the man was one that wisht them well ; yet because he did not give them his Horse so soone as they demanded, a Cavileere shot him to death presently with a pistoll. To this may be added their ravishing of a maide, and then made her to sweare not to reveale it. And the Kings Barber did ingeniously confesse in *Bristol*, that three of *P. Ruperts* souldiers did bragge they ravished a maide at the siege, before the Towne was taken, and afterwards did rip up her bowels. And it is credibly reported by a Gentleman that was amongst the Cavaleeres during the siege before *Bristol*, that he saw divers *Irish* Rebels whom he knew, who were not in service, but only followed the Army to rob and steale, as also certaine *Frenchmen*, who did rob and pillage divers houses neere *Bristol*, and slew many of their caine cattle and Sheepe out of a mischievous mind, though they made no use of them ; as slew divers persons also with their swords and pistols.

Hitherto we have shewed how they robbed many of us severally by re-tale in parls, next how they did it by whole-sale, undoing many of us all at once of all that e had. For the Castle being strongly fortified and victualled, as being the last place retreat unto, if the Towne should be taken, being assured we should be able to epe it (till aide came,) as a sanctuary for the persons and estates of such as were most active for the Parliament, (who were most level'd at by the Cavileeres) divers us accordingly brought in our goods, with provisions for our selves and to helpe tually the souldiers that were to be entertained in it ; But the Articles being agreed in but about 9 of the clock at night, and yet we were to march the next morning 10 of the clock out of the City, could not possible get out our goods : and the next

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At that time the Prisoners in the Castle being let out, they shut downe the gates, and seased upon all the goods and provisions, and afterwards fell to plundering what they listed, and would not suffer the owners to have the remainder without fines, nor all the owners neither, such only as they pleased, swearing fearfully that no round-head should have any goods there, so that all those that kept their goods in their shops (that were well affected) were plundered * there, and that which was brought into the Castle was taken away there, except that which was redeemed by a fine.

When they had done plundering, then they * quartered souldiers upon all sorts, as well Malignants as others, and all upon free quarter; placing 20 and 30 souldiers in a house upon men of but reasonable estates, which puts them to an intollerable charge; and the more, because divers of the Cavileeres will have variety of victuals at each meale, and will not be content to feede upon good Beefe, but must have Mutton and Veale and Chickens, with Wine and Tobacco, &c. and much adoe to please them at all: Causing also men, women and children to lye upon bordes, or as they can make shift, while these Cavaleeres possesse their beds, which they fill with * lice. Besides they fill the eares of the inhabitants with their blasphemous, filthy and ungodly language, which no chaste eare or honest heart can indure; yea so desperately wicked are they, that those that billet them dare not performe any act of Religion, neither to give thanks at meales, nor yet to pray, reade or sing Psalmes: But instead thereof they fill their houses with swearing and cursings, insomuch that they corrupt mens servants and children, that those who were formerly civill, have now learned to curse and sweare almost as bad as they: And on the Sabbath, these guests, or rather these beasts, spend their time in dicing, drinking and carding, and other such abominations. And whereas the Chaplaines that goe with them should teach them better, some of them sweare as bad as any of the souldiers; As namely one of the Princes Chaplaines swore by the flesh of God, and God damne him, with many other horrible oathes. And in a Tavern the Friday after they came into the City, * a Lords Chaplaine wisht *the Devill might roast his soule in Hell, if he did not preach such a Sermon next Sunday as was never preached in Bristol*, some part of which Sermon, was a railing at the Doctrine of Predestination, calling it the damnable doctrine of the round-heads; and in his very Sermon in the Pulpit, burst out into a fearfull oath. We may adde further some other blasphemies of the Cavaleeres when they entred the Towne; For they had certaine Fiddlers who sung blasphemous songs not fit to be mentioned, calling them the 4th. and 12th. Psalmes, and making musick on their Instruments, and standing in the streets and praying in a mocking manner saying, *O Lord thou wast with us at Edge-hill and Brainford, but where wast thou at Runaway-Hill, and where art thou now O Lord?* speaking through their noses and looking up to Heaven; And when their fellow Cavaleeres were beaten and kil'd before Gloucester, these in Bristol swore now God was turn'd Round-head.

To all this is added another grievous burden, the levying of * vast summes of monies which are paid to his Majesty and F. Rupert, which are laid upon all sorts, as well Malignants as others: Besides a weekly tax of about 5. or 600^l. per weeke on the City, in which they are justly served: For had they advanced but the one third part so much (of what they now part withall) for *S. William Waller*, he might have had by Gods blessing, an Army sufficient to have secured that City and all the Westerne parts. But that which is cruelty in the highest degree, they fine such men with great summes of money whose estates they have totally plundered: Some of whom for non-payment of the said summes, they committed to prison and laid in irons: Others have beene

expose such goods as they have left to make good the fines, having no more to mortgage some part of their lands to compass their payments: and some and quit the Town. This burden being so heavy, makes many of the * Maligners, secretly curse and rayle at them saying, *it was never so bad as now*, and it is not but be bad enough with them in the end; they being likely at last to be undone themselves as well as others, there being little trade in the City, and abundance of poore, and divers men of good estates plundered and fled the City, so that the payments must light at last upon the rich Malignants and Newters only.

And whereas it is given out that there was justice done by P. *Rupert* upon a souldier that had plundered, that act was as cruell and as partiall as any other; There was two of Collonel *Fiennes* his souldiers which turned to the Cavaleeres after their coming in, and had plundered; the one a Hat, the other a payre of Stockings, or such triviall things, for which upon complaint made to P. *Rupert*, they were presently commanded to throw a paire of dice, and he that threw least was immediately hang'd up, not allowing him time scarce to call upon God for mercy. And whereas at that very instant another souldier came by the Prince with goods which he had plundered at the * bridge, the Prince ask't him where he had them, he answered with an oath that he had them from a Round-head, and the Prince bid him be gone with it. Let all men judge what justice this was, to hang a poore souldier for a trifle, whiles their Captaines went plundering from place to place many hundred pounds worth of goods, which the owners could never yet get nor durst petition for.

After all these burdens upon their bodies and estates, they impose an oath upon their consciences, and threaten to lay them by the head and heeles if they refuse it. And that they may be held fast in this misery, many of them are bound in bonds not to depart the City without leave. So for their shipping (as we are informed) no ships may put forth to sea, but by warrant from the Cavaleeres, to goe when and whither they please and not otherwise: And all persons that make any shew of goodnesse, are so awed that they may not presume scarce to looke upon one another or talke together.

Having thus heard of the finnes of this place, for close of all observe the remarkable judgement of God upon it: It was the indeavour of the Malignants of that City a long time to get the Cavaleeres into it, and to that purpose solicited the Court to have * an Army to come downe to take it; thereupon P. *Rupert* came with an Army, but God defeated him: Yet they gave not over desiring, till now at last they had their wish, which was, to see the Kings Army enter and the Round-heads punished and expelled out of the City. And when it pleased God the City was delivered up, and the Parliaments garrison for the greatest part expulsed, with all the godly Ministers, and many hundred godly people that were strangers that came there for shelter; within a few dayes after, the hand of God broke in upon them, and hath smitten them with a very contagious and mortall disease, that sweepes away about * a 140, in a weeke, and sometimes many more, which hath continued hitherto: But the use that many make of it, is only a rayling at Round-heads, saying, that they sowed the plague there, and now they reape it, whereas it pleased God to give us much health, before this cursed crew came in as ever that City did enjoy. But now (as it is credibly reported by such as come from thence) there are few houses where there is not some either sick or dead. By all these premises, the world may see the happy condition of *Bristol*, and if you thinke this an happinesse, 'tis pittie but they should enjoy it.

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